GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1645
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006
DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether diversion of deep/fringe forests for industrial and commercial purposes poses serious threats to wildlife; and

(b) if so, the precautionary measures proposed/taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Diversion of bio-diversity rich forest land for industrial and commercial purposes does have an impact on the wildlife.

(b) To avoid adverse impacts on wildlife and their habitat due to diversion of forest land for non forestry purposes, the following measures are taken:

1) The diversion of forest land, rich in wildlife, for industrial and commercial purposes, is permitted only in unavoidable circumstances.

2) As assessment of the impact of such diversion on wildlife and their habitat is made by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden of the State. The recommendation of the Chief Wildlife Warden is given due consideration while examining the proposals.

3) Diversion of areas, falling under National Parks and Sanctuaries, for non forestry purposes, requires approval of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife. Site inspection by the experts are also done, wherever necessary, before recommending such diversion.

4) As per the direction of the Hon`ble Supreme Court, all cases requiring diversion of land from National Parks and Sanctuaries, need approval of the Hon`ble Supreme Court also.